



# Employment Labor Market Information Bulletin



Dr. Lee H. Arnold  
Director

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## Rhode Island's Unemployment Rate Increases to 4.1 Percent in October



## A Holiday Message from the Director

### The Unemployment Rate

Rhode Island's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased in October, following two successive months of declines. The unemployment rate for October rose by 0.2 of a percentage point to 4.1 percent. A year ago, the unemployment rate stood at 3.7 percent. The number of unemployed residents increased by 1,400 over the month to 21,000 in October. Nationally, the unemployment rate for October jumped to 5.4 percent, its highest level since December 1996. Rhode Island's unemployment rate remained below the national average for the third consecutive month.

"The labor force estimates for the month of October are the first to reflect the impact of the terrorist attacks of September 11<sup>th</sup>, said DLT Director Dr. Lee H. Arnold. "While these events clearly intensified the weakness in the national economy, their effect on the local labor force was minimal."

### Rhode Island Job Highlights (Over the Year, Unadjusted Figures)

The number of jobs in Rhode Island increased by 2,200 over the year, the smallest annual October gain since 1996. October 2001 jobs numbered 486,400, an increase of less than one-half percent (0.45%) over the 484,200 jobs reported in October 2000. While most major industry divisions reported over-the-year gains, the number of jobs added was considerably lower for most divisions than experienced in recent years. The Services sector added 1,800 jobs over the year, the smallest annual October gain since 1993. Contract Construction remained strong over the year with the addition of 1,700 jobs due mainly to increases in the payrolls of Special Trade Contractors. An annual gain of 1,000 jobs in Government employment is attributed to the 1,000 job increase experienced in Local Government. Within the Trade sector, Food Stores (+600) reported the most growth, followed by Wholesale-Nondurables (+300). Annual gains were also reported in Finance, Insurance & Real Estate (+500). (Continued on Page 4)

Dr. Lee H. Arnold, Director, and the staff of the Department of Labor and Training take this opportunity to wish season's greetings to the RI employer community and to all readers of the Employment Bulletin.

A special word of thanks is extended to those employers who assist the Department by providing essential employment information each month. Key indicators, such as industry employment levels, weekly production hours, and workers' earnings become the basis for both state and national reports and statistics prepared and published by the Department.

In the upcoming new year, we will continue to publish accurate and timely data every month to assist users of the Employment Bulletin in making informed economic decisions and planning for future employment needs.

The outrageous terrorist attacks on this nation remind us of how fragile the veneer of civilization really is. As individuals and as an agency we pledge to do all we can to help people and companies through difficult economic times. Our effectiveness is heavily dependent on your cooperation in providing us with information. You need to know that we do not take that for granted, and that we sincerely appreciate it. Again, our thanks, and our best wishes for a wonderful holiday season.

### Employers!

### Avoid Layoffs and Retain Skilled Workers

Workshare is a Rhode Island Department of Labor & Training sponsored program that provides employers with an alternative to the often-agonizing prospect of laying off workers when business declines. This program allows a business to reduce the hours and wages of all or a particular group of employees while at the same time allowing those participating to receive partial unemployment insurance benefits to supplement lost wages. In essence, Workshare provides employers with the opportunity to retain skilled workers and allows workers to maintain their jobs. (Continued on Page 3)

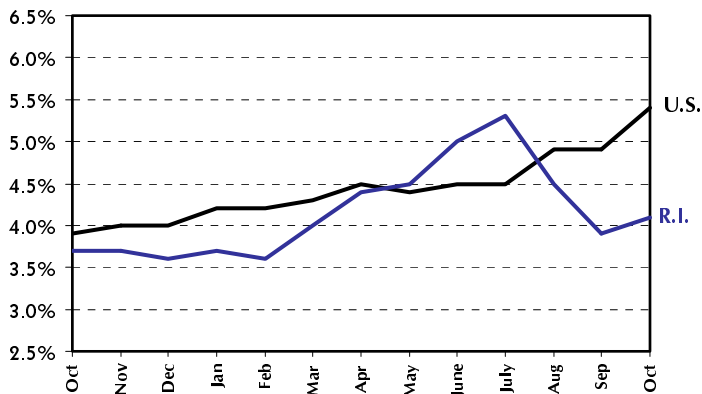
## Rhode Island Labor Force Statistics (in thousands)

	Unadjusted			Seasonally Adjusted		
	Oct 01*	Sept 01*	Oct 00	Oct 01*	Sept 01*	Oct 00
Civilian Labor Force	508.5	507.9	507.7	506.2	505.9	505.1
Resident Employment	487.7	487.8	488.9	485.3	486.3	486.2
Unemployment	20.8	20.2	18.8	21.0	19.6	18.9
Unemployment Rate	4.1%	4.0%	3.7%	4.1%	3.9%	3.7%

## United States Labor Force Statistics (in thousands)

	Unadjusted			Seasonally Adjusted		
	Oct 01*	Sept 01*	Oct 00	Oct 01*	Sept 01*	Oct 00
Civilian Labor Force	142,004	141,576	140,893	142,303	142,190	141,000
Resident Employment	134,898	134,868	135,771	134,562	135,181	135,464
Unemployment	7,106	6,708	5,122	7,741	7,009	5,536
Unemployment Rate	5.0%	4.7%	3.6%	5.4%	4.9%	3.9%

## Rhode Island & United States Unemployment Rates Seasonally Adjusted 2000 - 2001



## City & Town Unadjusted Unemployment Rates

	Oct 01*	Oct 00
Barrington	2.8	2.4
Bristol	2.7	3.5
Burrillville	3.4	3.1
Central Falls	7.6	5.8
Charlestown	4.5	3.5
Coventry	3.8	3.8
Cranston	3.8	4.0
Cumberland	4.2	2.8
East Greenwich	4.0	3.3
East Providence	4.6	4.0
Exeter	2.7	3.0
Foster	5.0	4.1
Glocester	2.8	2.4
Hopkinton	2.1	2.1
Jamestown	3.0	2.5
Johnston	4.1	4.3
Lincoln	4.1	3.4
Little Compton	1.7	1.7
Middletown	3.0	3.1
Narragansett	1.9	1.9
New Shoreham	0.9	1.7
Newport	2.7	2.9
North Kingstown	3.2	3.1
North Providence	3.8	3.5
North Smithfield	2.7	2.2
Pawtucket	6.0	4.2
Portsmouth	2.4	2.7
Providence	5.7	5.3
Richmond	1.8	1.6
Scituate	3.6	3.3
Smithfield	3.5	3.4
South Kingstown	2.8	2.7
Tiverton	2.9	3.1
Warren	3.3	3.6
Warwick	3.6	3.5
West Greenwich	3.6	3.7
West Warwick	3.8	4.2
Westerly	2.9	2.3
Woonsocket	5.6	4.1
State of R.I.	4.1	3.7

## Unemployment Insurance Claims Activity

	Oct	Sept	Oct	% Change		Year to Date		
	2001	2001	2000	Sept 01	Oct 00	2001	2000	% Change
Initial Claims	6,905	4,977	5,203	38.7%	32.7%	75,216	66,920	12.4%
Number of Payments	48,787	42,106	34,188	15.9%	42.7%	532,595	468,268	13.7%
Amount of Payments (gross millions)	\$14.5	\$12.2	\$8.5	19.2%	69.9%	\$149.1	\$113.6	31.3%
Exhaustions (Final Payments)	1,399	1,031	1,002	35.7%	39.6%	11,098	10,678	3.9%
E.S. Fund Balance (millions)	\$285.1	\$294.3	\$288.0	-3.1%	-1.0%			

\*Based on expanded household survey sample.

Labor Force statistics are compiled by Labor Market Information, in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Dept. of Labor.

For additional information, comments or suggestions, contact

Labor Market Information, Phone (401)462-8740, Fax: (401)462-8766, [www.dlt.state.ri.us/lmi](http://www.dlt.state.ri.us/lmi)

## Employers! Avoid Layoffs and Retain Skilled Workers

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These are just some of the advantages:

- ♦ Reduces hiring and retraining costs when business improves.
- ♦ Employees avoid financial and emotional hardships usually associated with layoffs.
- ♦ May improve employee morale.
- ♦ Employers can retain skilled workers.

Worksharing could be a viable alternative for companies considering layoffs. This program is available to any private employer with two or more employees.

Please contact Bill Brock in our Administrative Unemployment Insurance Office at 462-8405 or [bbrock@dlt.state.ri.us](mailto:bbrock@dlt.state.ri.us) for details. If you wish, arrangements can be made to conduct an informational session at your workplace. Put Workshare to work for you!

## Total Establishment Employment in Rhode Island\*\*

	Employment (in thousands)			Net Change From	
	Oct 01	Sept 01	Oct 00	Sept 01	Oct 00
<b>TOTAL EMPLOYMENT</b>	<b>486.4</b>	<b>483.0</b>	<b>484.2</b>	<b>3400</b>	<b>2200</b>
<b>GOODS PRODUCING</b>	<b>92.1</b>	<b>92.0</b>	<b>94.0</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>-1900</b>
Contract Construction	21.6	21.6	19.9	-----	1700
Manufacturing	70.5	70.4	74.1	100	-3600
<b>SERVICE PRODUCING</b>	<b>394.3</b>	<b>391.0</b>	<b>390.2</b>	<b>3300</b>	<b>4100</b>
Trans. & Public Utilities	17.4	17.3	17.5	100	-100
Trade (Wholesale & Retail)	111.0	111.6	110.1	-600	900
Wholesale	20.7	21.0	20.6	-300	100
Durables♦	12.7	12.9	12.9	-200	-200
Nondurables♦	8.0	8.0	7.7	-----	300
Retail	90.3	90.6	89.5	-300	800
Building & Garden Supplies♦	2.4	2.4	2.3	-----	100
General Merchandise	7.6	7.4	7.6	200	-----
Food Stores♦	16.6	16.5	16.0	100	600
Automotive Dealers	7.6	7.5	7.7	100	-100
Apparel & Accessory Stores	4.4	4.5	4.6	-100	-200
Furn., Home Furn., & Equipt.♦	3.0	3.1	2.8	-100	200
Eating and Drinking Places	32.1	32.9	32.1	-800	-----
Miscellaneous Retail	16.5	16.3	16.4	200	100
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	31.6	31.4	31.1	200	500
Depository Institutions	9.4	9.3	9.3	100	100
Services	168.8	166.9	167.0	1900	1800
Hotels & Other Lodging♦	5.0	5.0	4.8	-----	200
Business Services	29.9	29.6	29.7	300	200
Auto & Misc. Repair♦	5.5	5.5	5.6	-----	-100
Amusement & Recreation	5.7	6.3	5.7	-600	-----
Health Services	53.0	52.9	52.3	100	700
Educational Services	19.1	17.1	18.7	2000	400
Social Services	15.9	16.0	15.8	-100	100
Government	65.5	63.8	64.5	1700	1000
Federal	10.3	10.4	10.4	-100	-100
State	18.5	17.4	18.4	1100	100
Local	36.7	36.0	35.7	700	1000
Education♦	24.0	23.0	23.3	1000	700
Non Education♦	12.7	13.0	12.4	-300	300

♦ Publication of these industries is not approved by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS)

## Establishment Employment, Hours and Earnings in Manufacturing Industries in Rhode Island

	EMPLOYMENT (in thousands)					PRODUCTION-WORKER AVERAGES					
	Net Change					Weekly Hours			Hourly Earnings		
	Oct 01	Sept 01	Oct 00	Sept 01	Oct 00	Oct 01	Sept 01	Oct 00	Oct 01	Sept 01	Oct 00
<b>MANUFACTURING</b>	<b>70.5</b>	<b>70.4</b>	<b>74.1</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>-3600</b>	<b>39.8</b>	<b>40.3</b>	<b>40.4</b>	<b>12.17</b>	<b>12.15</b>	<b>12.18</b>
<b>DURABLE MFG.</b>	<b>46.0</b>	<b>46.1</b>	<b>48.9</b>	<b>-100</b>	<b>-2900</b>	<b>39.8</b>	<b>40.3</b>	<b>40.8</b>	<b>12.00</b>	<b>11.99</b>	<b>11.96</b>
Lumber/Furniture	2.6	2.7	2.9	-100	-300	39.3	41.2	39.0	11.82	11.82	11.98
Stone-Clay-Glass	0.8	0.8	1.0	-----	-200	41.1	39.1	39.1	13.92	13.88	13.80
Primary Metals	3.6	3.7	3.9	-100	-300	41.8	41.7	40.1	12.91	12.89	12.91
Fabricated Metals	8.1	8.2	8.7	-100	-600	39.0	39.3	41.8	11.41	11.38	11.43
Nonelectrical Mach.	3.9	4.0	4.5	-100	-600	38.5	39.9	40.8	13.73	13.63	13.61
Electrical Mach.	5.8	5.7	6.0	100	-200	41.2	39.4	39.7	11.52	11.55	11.55
Trans. Equipment	3.6	3.6	3.3	-----	300	39.6	40.8	40.5	14.39	14.40	14.39
Instruments	5.4	5.2	5.7	200	-300	38.3	40.0	40.8	12.67	12.66	12.77
Jewelry-Silverware	9.1	9.2	9.8	-100	-700	39.7	40.8	41.7	10.61	10.59	10.48
Miscellaneous Mfg.	3.1	3.0	3.1	100	-----	40.2	41.4	39.0	11.60	11.63	11.42
<b>NONDURABLE MFG.</b>	<b>24.5</b>	<b>24.3</b>	<b>25.2</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>-700</b>	<b>39.9</b>	<b>40.4</b>	<b>39.6</b>	<b>12.51</b>	<b>12.47</b>	<b>12.62</b>
Food Beverage	3.0	2.9	2.9	100	100	38.8	40.7	40.6	11.44	11.45	11.36
Textiles	6.1	6.2	6.4	-100	-300	40.3	40.8	39.0	10.96	10.87	10.88
Apparel	0.9	0.8	0.9	100	-----	39.0	41.0	38.4	9.30	9.35	9.22
Paper Products	1.9	1.9	2.0	-----	-100	38.5	41.5	37.4	12.10	12.19	12.03
Printing-Publishing	4.9	4.9	5.4	-----	-500	40.2	38.5	40.5	16.70	16.58	16.72
Chemical Products	2.3	2.3	2.2	-----	100	40.9	40.5	42.0	14.02	14.01	13.98
Rubber Products	0.4	0.4	0.5	-----	-100	41.0	38.9	40.0	12.95	12.99	12.92
Plastics Products	4.5	4.5	4.4	-----	100	40.4	41.0	39.7	13.43	13.42	13.22
Leather Products	0.5	0.4	0.5	100	-----	39.7	38.5	40.7	8.36	8.35	8.29

\*\*Current month figures are PRELIMINARY. Prior month & year are REVISED. Totals may not add due to rounding.  
Farmers, Self-employed, Domestic & Armed Services personnel are excluded from Establishment Employment figures.

## Rhode Island's Unemployment Rate Increases to 4.1 Percent in October

(Continued from Page 1)

Nearly every component of the Manufacturing sector reported job losses over the year contributing to a total decline of 3,600 jobs, the largest October decline since 1996. The most substantial losses occurred in Jewelry-Silverware (-700), Fabricated Metals (-600), Nonelectrical Machinery (-600) and Printing and Publishing (-500).

### Rhode Island Job Highlights (Over the Month, Unadjusted Figures)

The number of jobs in Rhode Island rose by 3,400 due to seasonal increases in private and public education payrolls.

**Services** – Services employment rose by 1,900 over the month due to a large increase in private education employment (+1,900). Smaller gains were noted in Business Services (+300) and Health Services (+100), offsetting declines in Amusement & Recreation (-600) and Social Services (-100).

**Government** – Government payrolls increased by 1,700 over the month due to gains in the state and local segments. An increase of 1,100 jobs noted in State government is attributed to employment gains in the state colleges. Local government added 1,000 jobs over the month as the last of the public school workers returned to their jobs.

**Finance, Insurance and Real Estate** – Estimates show a gain of 200 jobs over the month with half of the increase resulting from gains in Depository Institutions (+100).

**Manufacturing** – The Manufacturing sector registered a net gain of 100 jobs as small gains and losses were reported by several industries within the sector.

**Contract Construction** - Construction employment rose slightly over the month with a gain of 100 jobs as the industry recorded its highest October employment level (21,600) since 1988.

**Trade** – Wholesale & Retail Trade employment showed a loss of 600 jobs in October, following a much larger loss of 1,300 (revised) in September. The highly seasonal Restaurant industry, trimming its payrolls for the third straight month, reported a loss of 800 jobs. Declines were also noted in Wholesale-Durables (-200), Apparel and Accessory Stores (-100) and Furniture and Home Furnishings (-100).

## Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers

	Oct 01	Sept 01	Oct 00	% Change Prev. Year
All Items	177.7	178.3	174.0	2.1%

Source: U.S. Dept. of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

## The Brewery Parkade Project... Re-energizing Cranston!

The long-awaited Grand Opening of the Cranston Brewery Parkade Project began last month with store openings scheduled to continue over the next few months. Mayor John O'Leary and his Economic Development staff have worked diligently to see this venture come to fruition. As the shopping plaza nears completion, work on the planned office park continues on schedule.

The Employer Service Unit and the Providence netWORKri office have provided valuable assistance to some of the key anchor stores in the development. Super Stop & Shop, K Mart, and more recently, the Lowe's store, have all benefited from the services the two groups offer. Local television coverage, the Internet, job fair representation and on-site hiring assistance were just some of the no-cost support available to them.

The companies listed below are open or in the process of opening:

People's Liquors	Super Stop & Shop	K Mart
Citizens Bank	Radio Shack	China Buffet
Sally's Beauty Supply	Hollywood Nails	Dollar Tree
The Shoe Department	Lowe's	DOT's

For more information on FREE recruitment  
assistance for your company call:

Employer Service Unit	netWORKri
462-8724	222-3606x107

## Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates Across New England

	Oct 01	Oct 00
Connecticut	3.2%	2.0%
Maine	4.3%	3.1%
Massachusetts	4.2%	2.4%
New Hampshire	3.8%	2.4%
Rhode Island	4.1%	3.7%
Vermont	3.2%	2.8%